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Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-first session

Draft report

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Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

(Item 4 (a))

Section 17. Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific

1. At its 18th meeting on 22 June 2001, the Committee considered section 17, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the budget section and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the budget section.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the activities undertaken by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. It was considered that the resources proposed for the section were not commensurate with the needs of the Commission which served a region comprising two thirds of the world population, and included the highest number of people living in absolute poverty.

4. The view was expressed that the expected accomplishments should be refined and that a number of indicators of achievements should be formulated more

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precisely, in order for them to be more quantifiable. It was also felt that the resources devoted to the area of administration needed to be reduced further and redeployed to the programme of work.

5. Appreciation was expressed for the importance assigned to activities related to women and to gender mainstreaming, for the efforts of the secretariat of the Commission to streamline its staffing arrangements and for the decision of the Commission to reduce its publication programme by 22 per cent.

Conclusion and recommendation

6. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 17, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.